allotment for such loans should be liberal. The scope of the Regulation should be extended to loans for the development of industries. The condition of the labouring classes was very poor, and for their benefit, poor houses and orphanages should be established; a system of Old Age Insurance should also be instituted. The sanitation of the town of Trivandrum should be looked into and experts invited to examine the condition of the health of the town and collect statistics about the principal diseases. Government should offer better encouragement to systems of treatment other than Allopathy, such as Ayurveda and Chintamani. The Medical and Sanitary Departments should be amalgamated. The Member then complained about insufficient supervision of the work of medical officers by the Durbar Physician and suggested the appointment of District Medical Officers with additional powers of control over the other Medical Officers in the same District. A Committee of Visitors to the various medical institutions was also recommended. The number of Medical institutions should be increased and larger grants allowed to the department. In conclusion, the Member submitted that, after official reports had been called for and obtained on the representations of Members of the Assembly, the opinions of the Members who made the representations should also be invited before finally disposing of the reports.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

129. Concessions to be granted by Government to the people of Chengannur taluk as a measure of relief from the present distress.

Mr. A. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) represented that the bulk of the paddy required for consumption in the taluk could be produced in the taluk itself, if the *eata* forests and swampy lands within the Ranni and Kumbazha *pakuthies* were given to the ryots for cultivation. The subject had been discussed in previous sessions of the Assembly, but the request was not granted. The Member pointed out that such low-lying and swampy lands were devoid of any tree growth or other produce. He, therefore, suggested that the following steps be taken to bring the lands under wet cultivation.

i. *Eata* lands and swamps not exceeding 1,000 acres in extent should be measured out and set apart for cultivation for a period not exceeding 3 years.

ii. A Committee consisting of at least 5 members of the Taluk Samajam should be specially deputed to fix the assessment on the lands, at a rate not exceeding Rs. 2 per acre.

iii. The Committee should get the lands cultivated by the agriculturists on lease or *varam*, and the paddy harvested should be sold in the taluk itself at a rate not exceeding $3\frac{1}{2}$ *fanams* per *para*.

iv. Any savings left after payment of the tax and expenses of cultivation should be invested as a fund in the Savings Bank for the relief of famine in the taluk.

Similar arrangements should be made in other parts of the State also.

The Member then submitted that, in the absence of a maximum *tharavila* for *puduval* lands in the Ranni and Kumbazha *pakuthies*, the Revenue authorities were realising exorbitant rates, without any regard to the quality of the soil. He prayed that, in view to extend the area under cultivation, it be ruled that the rate of *tharavila* fixed by G. O. No. 8764/L. R., dated the 2nd November 1915, for the Ranni and Kumbazha *pakuthies*, *viz.*, Rs. 5 per acre, should not, under any circumstances, be exceeded.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

130. Government and the interior parts of the State.

Mr. K. I. Kochippan Mappila (Member, Nominated) complained that, compared to the towns, the needs of the interior parts of the State were not being satisfactorily attended to by the various departments. Owing to the silting up of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

irrigation tanks and channels, paddy lands in many parts in Central and North Travancore had become unproductive. It was necessary that steps should be taken to have such channels and tanks repaired without delay.

There were also extensive areas of swampy lands included in Reserves and Government *porambokes*, which could be easily brought under wet cultivation. Such lands should be thrown open for cultivation.

He next spoke about the following public works :—

i. The bridge at Perumpidi on the road branching from the Tiruvalla-Kozhencherri road to Mallapalli was removed by the P. W. D. 13 years ago. It should be replaced without delay.

ii. The Cherukolpuzha-Poovanakadavu road was a sanctioned work and should be taken in hand and completed as early as possible.

iii. The culverts and bridges on the Tiruvalla-Mavelikara road also required early completion.

In conclusion, the Member made the following suggestions :—

i. A Taluk Board should be created in each taluk with the Tahsildar as its President, to enquire into the needs of each taluk and suggest the measures to be adopted by the Government and the people.

ii. A survey of the State should be conducted to find out the lands which were once under cultivation but had subsequently become unproductive and abandoned and to devise means to bring them under cultivation again.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

131. Certain changes to be effected in the general administration of the State.

Mr. M. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Karunagappalli taluk) expressed the gratitude of the people to the Dewan for the improvement effected in the finances of the State during the last five years and said that Government were in a better position now to devote more attention towards improving the means of communication in the several taluks.

He then suggested the formation of an Executive Council, composed of the prominent officers of the State, to advise the Dewan in matters of administration.

Next, he pleaded for the grant of greater privileges to the people so as to enable them to take part in the administration. Referring to the proposed expansion of the Legislative Council, he suggested that the Council should have a majority of non-official members and be invested with the power to discuss the budget, move resolutions and interpellate Government on administrative questions. Agriculture, trade and industry should each have a member to represent its interests. It was also necessary that the S. M. P. Assembly should be placed on a statutory basis.

At every session of the Assembly the representatives of the several taluks were pressing the necessity of improving and extending the means of communication and other public works in the various parts of the State. It was not possible to comply with all the requests. He understood that Government were, therefore, contemplating the formation of District and Taluk Boards and made the following suggestions for consideration in that connection :—

(1) The Presidents of such Boards should be non-official gentlemen.

(2) Government should assist them with liberal grants.

(3) The Boards should have control over not only means of communication, but also agriculture and sanitation.

In order to improve the economic condition of the State, the Member urged the formation of a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials. Landed properties were alone subjected to taxation at present. That was hard. Other sources also should

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly